



STATE OF ARIZONA

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**Highlights of *A Line in the Sand: Confronting the Threat at the Southwest Border*, Prepared by the staff of the House Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Investigations, Rep. Michael T. McCaul, Chairman, 2006**

- This 2006 report summarizes the findings of the Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security in the United States House of Representatives.
- Representative Michael T. McCaul, (R-TX), was the subcommittee's chairman.
- The report focuses on criminal activity and violence taking place along the Southwest border of the United States between Texas and Mexico.
- The report notes:
  - The Texas-Mexico border region has been experiencing an alarming rise in the level of criminal cartel activity, including drug and human smuggling, which has placed significant additional burdens on Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies.
  - The Texas-Mexico border is the site of violent criminal enterprises carried out by organized criminal syndicates and includes the smuggling of drugs, humans, weapons and cash.
  - Federal law enforcement personnel estimates that 10 to 30 percent of illegal aliens are actually apprehended and 10 to 20 percent of drugs are seized.
  - In addition to criminal activities and violence of the cartels on our Southwest border, there is an ever-present threat of terrorist infiltration over the Southwest border.
  - Data indicates that there are hundreds of illegal aliens apprehended entering the U.S. each year from countries known to support and sponsor terrorism.
  - U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement investigations have revealed that aliens were smuggled from the Middle East to staging areas in Central and South America, before being smuggled into the U.S.